



Fort Bend County Podcasts

Podcast Episode 35- Safety: Defensive Driving

March 27, 2025

Gina: Welcome to this week's Benefit Detective Podcast. I'm Gina.

Wendy: And I'm Wendy.

Gina: We are expanding this podcast to the risk side of the house.

Wendy: That's right! So, let's welcome our Health and Safety Officer, Yvette Maldonado.

Yvette: Hello, everyone! How are you guys? I'm happy to be here with y'all today.

Wendy: So, Yvette, tell us what's happening on the safety side.

Yvette: So, there is always something in motion when it comes to safety. Risk Management is focused on keeping employees informed, prepared, and protected. So, anything from emergency planning and workplace safety initiatives to defensive driving and training updates. We are constantly working to support a safe and secure work environment for everyone. So, keep an eye on eConnect, Facebook, and our monthly HR newsletter for any important safety tips, training opportunities, and updates.

Gina: Yvette, what is an ADI, and why is it important for us to complete one?

Yvette: So, an ADI is an authorized driver information form. It's required documents for all employees who drive a county vehicle or use their personal vehicle for county business. It helps risk management to verify that drivers meet the eligibility criteria to operate a vehicle on behalf of the county. So, completing an ADI is a crucial step in ensuring the safety of both employees and the public.

Wendy: Now what happens if we have a driving violation? Let's say, what if our Texas driver's license gets suspended?

Yvette: So, we're gonna hope this doesn't happen. But if an employee receives a driving violation while operating a county vehicle or if there's Texas driver's license is suspended, then the employee needs to notify their department head or elected official or his or her supervisor. The department is required to notify risk management, then this allows us to take the appropriate steps to ensure we remain in compliance with county policy and ensure continued safety on the road.

Wendy: Are there different DDC classes? And if there is, is there one that allows, for car insurance discounts?

Yvette: So, there are different DDC courses. Employees can take defensive driving in person, or they can take the defensive driving simulator, which is located here in Risk Management. Both options help



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improve safe driving habits. Only specific state approved DDCs may qualify for insurance discounts, which our in-person class does. But if you're interested in that benefit, it's always a good idea to check with your insurance provider and confirm that that course is eligible.

Wendy: Now, is DDC mandatory?

Yvette: So, DDC is mandatory for employees who are either driving a county vehicle or their own personal vehicle for county business. In some instances, it may also be required if you have an at fault incident. But even if it's not mandatory for your position, we highly encourage you to take the course. It's a great refresher and helps promote safe driving practices.

Gina: How do we sign up for a DDC class?

Yvette: So, signing up is super simple through employee self-service. You simply go to training, registration by course, and then you can search for defensive driving. This will show you both the in-person classes and the defensive driving simulator available class dates, and you can register there.

Gina: But what if I sign up for a class and can't make it?

Yvette: So, we completely understand that schedules can change. If you're unable to attend a class that you've registered, then simply go back to employee self-service, schedule training, and you remove yourself from the class. This helps free up space too for others who might be on the waiting list.

Gina: Well, thank you, Yvette, for joining us today. That was a great information.

Yvette: Thanks so much for having me. And just to close, I'd like to add that together, we can create a safe environment for everyone. Thanks to everyone for doing your part to keep safety a priority, whether it's behind the wheel, in the office, or even out in the field. And remember, be aware, be well, and be safe.

Gina: Well, that's a wrap for this week's Benefit Detective Podcast. I'm Gina.

Wendy: And I'm Wendy and so stay tuned for our next podcast, which releases every second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Gina: And remember, the Benefit Detectives are here to help.